DAY OF PENTECOST JUNE 8, 2025 8:30 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visitors are welcome and invited to make themselves at home. If you're interested in learning more about Swamp Lutheran, have questions, or are looking for a church home, speak with Pastor Scott or church members. Please complete a visitor card and place it in the offering plate or sign guest register in narthex.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (lobby) by the coat rack.

The worship service is printed in this bulletin. **Hymns** are found in the red hymnal Evangelical Lutheran Worship. **Children's** active presence is welcomed in our worship. There are special kids bulletins available in the narthex and at the side entrance.

Offering plates are passed. Additionally, there is an offering drop box in the narthex. Online giving via cell phone is easy and secure. Just use this QR code from your phone's camera app.



Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church—gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, connects us through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. We believe "Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink." (<u>Small Catechism</u>, Martin Luther) Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Website – Be sure and check our website <u>www.swamplutheran.org</u> regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

J. WAYNE KERR

congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of \oplus the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,

we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN GOD OF TEMPEST, GOD OF WHIRLWIND ELW 400

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

Children leave for Children's Church

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b read responsively

²⁴How manifold are your ^I works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full ^I of your creatures.

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number, living things both | small and great.

- ²⁶There go the ships ^I to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the ^I sport of it.
- ²⁷All of them | look to you to give them their food | in due season.
- ²⁸You give it to them; they | gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.
- ²⁹When you hide your face, | they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their dust.
- ³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they I are created; and so you renew the face I of the earth.
- 31May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever; O LORD, rejoice in | all your works.
- ³²You look at the earth | and it trembles; you touch the mountains | and they smoke.
- ³³I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live; I will praise my God while I | have my being.
- ³⁴May these words of I mine please God. I will rejoice I in the LORD.
- 35bBless the LORD, O my soul. Hal- lelujah!

READING: Romans 8:14-17

Here Paul speaks about the mystery of baptism: through the Holy Spirit we are claimed, gathered, and welcomed into Christ's body, the church. And we receive a new name in our adoption: child of God.

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL VS 1

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure. Refrain

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: NJOKWETU, ROHO MWIMA, Wilson Niwagila English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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turn disquiet to contentment,

doubt into certainty. Refrain

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:8-17 (25-27)

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Though the disciples struggle with Jesus' nature and identity, they receive the promise that they too will be identified with God and God's mission. Though he must leave them now, Jesus promises the coming of the Advocate whom God will send to comfort and enlighten them.

⁸Philip said to [Jesus,] "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."]

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty; turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty. Refrain

5 Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure. Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure. Refrain

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

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Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN RETURN FROM CHILDREN'S CHURCH

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Baptism of Eloise Marie Martin

PRESENTATION

Baptismal party gathers with the pastor at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: I present Eloise Marie Martin for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Eloise baptized into Christ?

Parents' Response: I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture her in faith and prayer,

so that she may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Eloise in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Eloise and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

Stand

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? Parents' Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into Eloise. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

BAPTISM

Eloise Marie Martin
I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughter new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life. Sustain Eloise with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Eloise, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTIZED

Stand

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

Please share the peace.

Sit

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE J.WAYNE KERR

OFFERING In addition to the plate, online giving via cell phone is safe and secure. See QR code on the inside cover of this bulletin.

As the offering is brought to the table, the congregation stands and sings.



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following the direction of the ushers, form a circle to receive communion. The bread, cup, and wine will be brought to you. Grape juice and gluten free options are available—tell the usher. After being communed, please return to your seat.

After all have communed, stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign,

∃ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**



DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE J.WAYNE KERR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Baptism of Eloise Marie Martin will occur during worship today. Eloise is the daughter of Katelyn and Javan Martin, granddaughter of Cindy Liebl, Joanne and Raymond Martin, and Kevin and Robin Schannauer. Great-granddaughter of Genevieve Liebl and the late Janet and Harry Schannauer.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, John Wesner, Jeff Kappenstein, Nettie Kreiner, Clair Sweigart, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Ray Fox, Gene Miller, Jean Wolf, Bobby Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Edith Snyder, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich, Earl Myers, Elizabeth Sherman, Judy Habecker, Anna Rose Schannauer, Pauline Wassmer, Jerry Landis, Mary Beth Jenkins, Evelyn Gehman, Joan Leed, Ron Adams, Kevin Williams, Karen Laudenslager, Susan Levan, Larry Eberly, Anson Kauffman, Janet Bingaman, Dwayne Dimitris, Gladys Eckenroad, Bonnie Koehle-Koon, Ross Houck, Chris Zander, Kathleen Troutman, Sally Bergman, Keith Reimert, Pam Heisey, Cathy Stine, Connie Malafarina, Ted Heisey, Regina Reinecker, Karen Klingensmith, Debbie Leed, family of Molly Weitzel, family of Michael Wargo, family of Diane Showalter Emes.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of loved ones by Glenn and Linda Beard.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of Calvin Showalter by the Gockley family.

ALTAR FLOWER/CANDLE UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who donated to the Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle ministry. The 2025 Flower Calendar is posted in the Narthex. The Sanctuary Candle cost will remain at \$5.00 and the cost of the Altar Flowers remains at \$40.00 (subject to change).

FLOWERS: July 27th is available to sponsor. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday for the flowers or candle, please contact Sue Kreitz at 717-283-9444 or John Frantz at 717-606-8994.

FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. There is a need for paper towels, toilet paper, cereal, canned soup and vegetables. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month. Please check for a current expiration date.

Greeter Schedule June

8 Lamar & June Eberly

15 Pam Leisey

22 Gene & Heather Ferrari

29 Lowell & Sandy Haws

Greeter Schedule July

6 Ken & Sam Reimert

13 Brian & Katie Koehle

20 Sue Ellen Knauer

27 Denise Kidwell

Week in the Parish (June 9 – 15)

June 9	6:00PM	Mulching Detail
June 11	1-4:00PM	EASS Food Distribution
June 12	6:30PM	Learning Cmte
June 15	FATHER'S DAY	
June 15	8 :30AM	Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22	8:30AM	Worship
June 24	7:00PM	Cocalico Builders of Hope
June 25	11:30 - 1:00PM	Acts of Love Summer Lunch Program
June 25	7:00PM	Church Council
June 29	8:30AM	Worship

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday June 9	Psalm 48 Joel 2:18-29 1 Corinthians 2:1-11
Tuesday June 10	Psalm 48 Ezekiel 11:14-25 1 Corinthians 2:12-16
Wednesday June 11	Psalm 48 Numbers 24:1-14 Luke 1:26-38
Thursday June 12	Psalm 8 Proverbs 3:13-18 Ephesians 1:17-19
Friday June 13	Psalm 8 Proverbs 3:19-26 Ephesians 4:1-6
Saturday June 14	Psalm 8 Proverbs 4:1-9 Luke 2:41-52

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday The Holy Trinity Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15



Join us at Wonder Junction VBS at Reinholds Carnival Grounds July 13 to 17, 6:30 to 8:30pm! We are looking for volunteers to help make this year's VBS a success; there are different ways to volunteer and get involved. These 5 days are fun-packed, you don't want to miss it.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help impact the young people of our community. The last two years, we have had nights where there have been 200 children in attendance. See Pastor Scott or Abbey Rineer for more information. Contact the church office, Pastor Scott or Abbey Rineer to volunteer.717-278-6575.

Meals - volunteers and families are invited to share in the community meal each night. Families will have the option to sign-up for the meals during the registration process.

Parents register your children via this link: https://bit.ly/4ITHXK4 to donate cases of water bottles or 16-pk packages of hamburger and hot dog rolls. Please commit by July 6; items are needed at the Fire Co Kitchen July 13 or 15. Dates needed are indicated for each item.

ACTS OF LOVE Lunch Program: Local churches work together to make meals and serve lunch to local families within the Cocalico School District. Lunches are prepared and served each Wednesday during the summer months. Swamp Lutheran Church will be serving lunch on Wednesday, June 25 from 11:30 - 1:00. We are looking for people who are willing to support this program. Please consider helping with the ACTS OF LOVE lunch program. There are two ways in which to help.

- 1 Volunteers are needed to help prepare, deliver and serve the lunches at various parks throughout the Cocalico Community. (Lunch is served at the Reamstown Park, Denver Park, Adamstown Grove, and Reinholds Park on Main Street)
- 2- Donate snacks for a snack box that will be provided the day of the meal. We are looking to have individually wrapped snacks that children and adults are able to take along with them when they pick up their meals. Items could include: Single servings of apple sauce, crackers, pretzels, animal crackers, juice boxes, etc. Please contact Denise Kidwell (717-725-8795 or denisekidwell321@yahoo.com) with any questions and/or to volunteer serving lunch on June 25. Thanks for your consideration! Denise.

PENTECOST FLOWERS

In honor of:

- appreciation of all worship assistants by Worship Committee
- my children, Abbey and Zachary Rineer, by Tom Showalter
- my grandchildren, Kenzie, Maren, and Quinton, by Tom Showalter
- her mother, Mrs. Ruth Mummah, by John and Carol Chmielewski
- Courtney, Taylor, Justin, Dominic, and Anthony, grandchildren of Don and Jan Risser, by Jan Risser
- Sonya, Jasper, Ember, Iris, great grandchildren of Don and Jan Risser, by Jan Risser
- children, Debbie, Dwayne, Peggy, and Gary, by Earl Myers
- his favorite grandson, P. Casey Coble, by Earl Myers
- his favorite granddaughter, Stevie Nicole and Erik Posegay, by Earl Myers
- his great grandchildren, Avery Ann and Olivia Nicole Posegay, by Earl Myers
- my family by Lucille Lorah
- family by John and Jerry
- our church family by John and Jerry
- our children, Matthew and Kiersten and Eric and Lindsay, by Lee and Jodi Showalter
- our granddaughter, Emily Joann, by Lee and Jodi Showalter
- · our grandson, Noah Lee, by Lee and Jodi Showalter

In Memory of:

- Earl and Betty Eshelman by Alan and Kathy Worley
- Delores Worley by Alan and Kathy Worley
- Anna Hershey by Robert Hershey
- Dale Sweigert by Deb Sweigert
- Jen's Mor Far and Mor Mor, Nils and Birgit Andersson, by Pastor Scott and Jen Brubaker
- Michael Wargo by Connie Taylor
- his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Chmielewski, by John and Carol Chmielewski
- her father, Mr. Kenneth Mummah, by John and Carol Chmielewski
- Don Risser by Jan Risser
- Henry and Jeannette Bitler, parents of Don and Jan Risser, by Jan Risser
- Robert and Irene Risser, parents of Don and Jan Risser, by Jan Risser
- Jaxon, great grandson of Don and Jan Risser, by Jan Risser
- Nancy Kulp by Doug Kulp
- their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kauffman, by Debbie, Dwayne, Peggy, and Gary
- their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Linton D. Myers, by Debbie, Dwayne, Peggy, and Gary
- their favorite MeMa, Irene Myers, by Earl Myers family
- Harry "Ducky" Lorah by Lucille Lorah
- Tim O'Neal Lorah by Lucille Lorah
- Loved ones by Karen and Randy Krater
- Mahlon and Lucy Sweigart by the family
- parents, Russell and Mary Derr, by Jane and Tom Lesher
- parents, Charles and Carolyn Lesher, by Tom and Jane Lesher
- James and Nancy Frantz by John and Jerry
- Musser and Miriam Landis by John and Jerry
- Jeffrey Landis by John and Jerry
- parents and grandparents, Gil and Joann Gockley, by Lee, Jodi, Matthew, and Eric Showalter
- parents and grandparents, Vernon and Edith Showalter, by Lee, Jodi Matthew, and Eric Showalter



WWW.WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG

Worship Study follow up survey. With months having passed since we transitioned to our current worship schedule and format, we want to take time to solicit the input of our members. We want to make sure that our services allow us to grow together in our faith and reflect the congregation's thoughts. In an effort to gain further insight, we are asking you to take a few minutes to complete a short survey. Hard copies of the survey are available for those that want to complete the form in writing. For those that wish to submit responses electronically, please use the link below to access a Google Form. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and will guide us as we assess our worship experience.

https://forms.gle/1QqdshhALVtcyrcq7

Please complete the survey by the end of June. All responses will remain confidential. Your thoughts are welcomed and appreciated. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Worship Study Committee Chair Cody Leisey or Pastor Brubaker. We look forward to hearing from you!

Other Readings for this Sunday

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, amid signs of fire, wind, and a variety of languages, the people were amazed and astonished at Jesus' promise coming true.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

GOSPEL MESSAGE

June 8, 2025 DAY OF PENTECOST Let's Dance!

What on earth actually happened on this day of Pentecost? What was the miracle that revealed the presence of God? What was the Holy Spirit up to?

In the Acts of the Apostles we hear that the disciples spoke in various languages (2:4). Are we hearing about a miracle of the tongue, an ability to speak so that others might understand? The scripture also says each person in the crowd heard the disciples "speaking in the native language of each" (v. 6). Did we just hear that it was in fact a miracle of the ear? Is this story about people being able to comprehend the power of God's presence?

In a broken world, in a world of "me, me, me first," our impulse is often to choose one interpretation or the other—and to make sure we end up on the "correct," winning side of the discussion. But when we return to the death of Jesus on the cross, observed some fifty days ago, we see that he offers us a third and holy option. Rather than taking sides in our walk with Jesus, we align with his heart, capable of embracing all.

To consider that the Pentecost story is a miracle of *both* the tongue and the ear is to accept a beautiful invitation—an invitation, at the birth of the church, to enter into a sacred dance of both speaking and listening. To consider it a dance would be to acknowledge a natural flow of the Spirit drawing us to not one or the other but to both in loving turn.

In John's gospel reading for the day, Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (14:15). The commandment Jesus speaks of is "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (13:34).

Speak, listen, and love: this is how we dance together.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30AM

You are Welcome Here!

At Swamp Lutheran Church, *Grace is Spoken Here!* We welcome with full participation and inclusion all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, imprisonment, physical or mental health, socioeconomic circumstances or anything that too often divides us. Together as one in the Spirit, our unity is in Jesus Christ.

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